

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/676,322

Examiner

Matthew O. Savage

Applicant(s)

HIBBLE, BARRY F.

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 3-17-05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 10, and 38-48 renumbered 1-18, respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Matthew O Savage
Primary Examiner
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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Anthony A. Laurentano on 6-23-05.

1. (Currently Amended) A connector for attaching a filter cloth to a filter plate in a filter press, comprising:

collar portion configured to couple to the perimeter of a central opening on the filter cloth, said collar portion having a substantially flat surface configured to abut a first side of the filter plate; and

a tab portion extending at an angle relative to the collar portion configured to engage a recess in the filter plate, wherein the tab portion includes [an] a radially outer surface that is inclined at an obtuse angle relative to the flat surface of said collar portion [[a longitudinal axis of the connector]] and wherein the radially outer surface is configured to abut an inclined surface of the filter plate, and a tab clip extending radially outwardly from the radially outer surface of said tab portion for engaging a bore of the filter plate.

On line 2 of claims 2 and 41, "an" has been changed to -- a radially --.

On line 2 of claims 5 and 44, "thermoplastic rubber," has been deleted.

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Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled.

On line 1 of claim 46, "an" has been changed to -- a radially --.

On line 1 of claim 10, "9" has been changed to --1--.

On line 33 of page 5 of the specification, "23" has been changed to -- 21 --.

On line 24 of page 6 of the specification, "busses" has been changed to --
bosses--.

On line 24 of page 9 of the specification, "The tab portion 421" has been changed
to -- The tab clip portion 422 --.

On line 10 of page 10 of the specification, -- at an obtuse angle relative to a
substantially flat surface of the collar abutting the side of the filter plate and is also
inclined --.

On line 1 of page 11 of the specification, "flange" has been changed to -- tab clip
--.

On line 17 of page 11 of the specification, "72" has been changed to -- 74 --.

The title has been changed to -- FILTER CLOTH CONNECTOR --.

The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and
agreed upon by applicant:

FIG. 10 must be amended to include reference numbers and lead lines for elements 861b and 881b mentioned on line 8 of page 12 of the specification as shown in proposed amended FIG. 10 attached hereto;

Reference number "924" must be changed to -- 942 -- as shown in proposed amended FIG. 10.

In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: French Patent 1,593,016 and U.S. Patent 6,007,717 (FIGS. 1-2) are considered the closest prior art. The French '016 reference fails to teach or suggest the limitation of the tab portion including a radially outer surface that is inclined at an obtuse angle relative to the flat surface of the collar portion as recited in instant claim 1 or the limitation of the third and fourth surfaces of the tab portion intersecting to form a point at an end of the connector as recited in claim 40. The U.S. reference fails to teach or suggest the limitation of a tab clip extending radially outwardly from the radially outer surface of the tab portion for engaging a bore of the filter plate as recited in claim 1, or the limitation of the third and fourth surfaces of the tab portion intersecting to form a point at an end of the connector as recited in claim 40.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

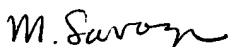
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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O. Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Matthew O Savage
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

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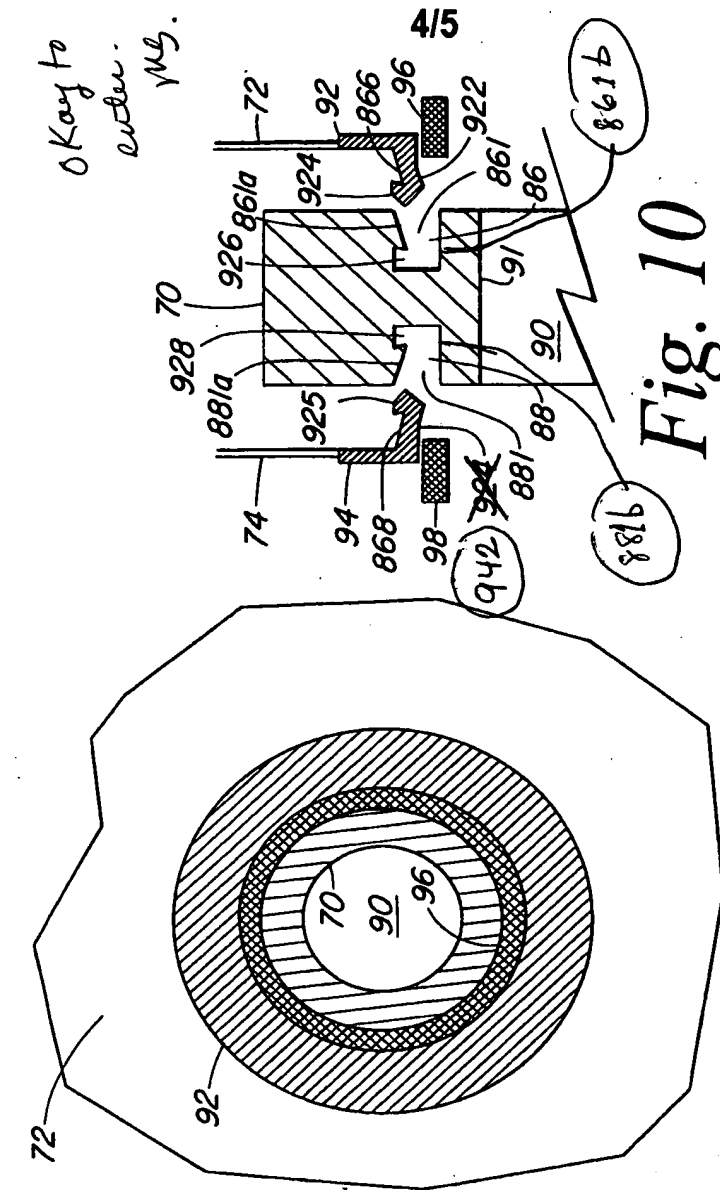


Fig. 9

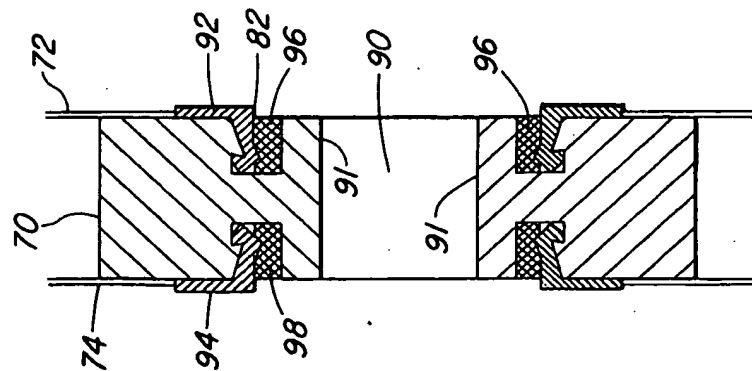


Fig. 8